The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial trials, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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REGISTER! VOTE! ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

WHOLE NO. 1849 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1946 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 26, NO. 38

LABOR, USA

Washington, D. C.—The eleventh edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

The Maritime Picture

By NELSON CRUIKSHANK
Social Insurance Director of the AFL

Out of the temporary turmoil surrounding the ship strike situation, two major developments of basic and permanent importance to the entire nation emerged this week.

First, President Truman emphasized at his press conference Thursday that he sees no need for asking Congress to adopt new legislation to curb strikes or to fix tighter controls on wages. Organized labor welcomes this decision.

Secondly, the Government has conceded the fundamental principle that wage increases—at least in part—can be absorbed by industry without any need for passing on the increased costs to consumers in the form of higher prices or higher rates.

This is the gist of the plan announced by Stabilization Director Steelman for settlement of the ship strike. To make it clear, perhaps I should briefly summarize the issues involved in the strike.

Last July, the Seafarers International Union negotiated new contracts with the ship owners calling for wage increases, shorter hours and other gains for the seamen. The contracts later were submitted to the War Shipping Administration's Wage Board for approval. The Board approved the contracts with the exception of $5 a month for seamen on the West Coast and $10 a month on the East Coast.

The Board said the contracts were inflationary because they exceeded wage awards granted to CIO unions in the maritime field earlier by that very $5 and $10 a month. The AFL union insisted on the full amount of its contracts. It was perfectly justified in so doing. The Wage Stabilization Board then considered its earlier decisions and reaffirmed its previous disapproval, but it pointed out that there was nothing to stop the ship owners from paying the extra amounts if they were willing to absorb the cost and not demand higher freight or passenger rates.

Mr. Steelman's decision took that final clause and made it the basis for the settlement of the dispute. The shipowners agreed to absorb the cost and the strike was called off.

This settlement will work no serious hardship to the ship operators. It has become the fashion in recent months to take for granted that every wage increase inevitably must result in an equal or comparable price increase. That is economically false. High volume operation and high volume production reduce costs and make it possible for management to pay higher wages without any necessity for higher prices. As more ships are released by the Government to private operation, management will be able to reap greater profits despite the additional wage costs now being handed upon to seamen.

Labor regards this decision as a healthy development since higher prices quickly wipe out wage gains and leave the worker scarcely better off than he was before. If every wage increase is to be followed by a price boost, inflation will never be halted.

The Food Outlook

By NATHAN KOENIG
Executive Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture

From the information we have now, it looks like the world's supply of food will be slightly better in the coming year than it was in the year just past. But world food supplies will still be less than they were before the war.

I have just come back from Europe, where I had a chance to study the food situation and to see the farmers in several countries over there are doing to restore their own food production. And I can report to you that European farmers are doing a good job under very bad conditions. They can do despite shortages of draft power, hand tools, machinery, fertilizer, and good seed. Even with all these handicaps, European farmers are producing more cereal crops this year than last.

But food production in Europe has not yet come up to prewar levels. In fact the world food situation is still such that the countries where food has been the shortest during the emergency will have to continue to practise wartime economy to make their domestic food supplies go further—and some of them must continue to depend heavily on importing food from other countries.

Here in the United States we've been blessed with the greatest harvest in all our history. By the end of the year and I can count on at least as much food as we had in the same period last year.

In spite of the trouble you may have had buying meat up to now, the meat supply next year for folks in the United States will probably average out to be larger this year than last. It may run something like 145 to 150 pounds a person—compared with 136 pounds last year. The meat ration and high prices that prevailed for several weeks before price controls went back into effect last Tuesday, naturally resulted in a lot of animals going to market sooner than they ordinarily would. But there is every reason to expect that receipts at the principal markets this week would slump to a very low level—and they did. They are still low. But I think you can expect them to begin to pick up in the next couple of weeks or so and then continue at a reasonable level.

The present price ceilings on livestock recommended by the Secretary of Agriculture were decided on after very careful study to carry out the purpose of the Price Control law and the expression of policy which the Congress adopted. The policy was to fix prices at a level that would expand production where supplies were short until those supplies should equal demand.

In this particular instance the problem was to arrive at a price for livestock good enough to be an incentive to farmers to hold up production and yet be far below the runaway prices consumers paid in July and August—the period during which price controls were lapsed. The ceiling livestock prices are higher than the June 30 ceilings by an average of about three and three-quarter cents a pound. Agricultural authorities feel this is about the price needed to encourage farmers under present conditions to keep on producing the meat we need.

In spite of what has been said about a famine in meat during the past few days, there are some good sides to the picture.

For one thing, pork production this fall and winter should be helped by the good pig crop this spring. These hogs will be coming to market this fall and winter. Also cattle have been going into feeder lots in substantial numbers in the past few weeks—to be fed for marketing next year.

We have more grain now so we can feed meat animals to heavier weights before marketing—and still have enough grain left over for food needs abroad.

Communists in the Labor Movement

By WILLIAM C. DOHERTY
Vice President of the AFL and President of the National Association of Letter Carriers

Widely publicized news developments of the past week have brought to the forefront the problem of Communist infiltration into the American labor movement. It is a problem. There is no point in dodging it. It must be faced and overcome.

Particularly is this true of labor unions representing employes of the United States Government. The principle of a democratic labor organization dominated by communists becomes doubled when that organization speaks and acts for Government employes. Nor does it make sense for our Government to hire and keep on its pay roll employes who are out to destroy that form of government.

I am proud of the fact that the National Association of Letter Carriers, at its convention in Detroit a few days ago, met this issue squarely and voiced its convictions boldly. Our convention adopted a resolution which said: "The National Association of Letter Carriers pledges its pledge and loyalty to the United States Government and recommends to the Post Office Department dismissal from the service of any known member of the Communist Party or anyone who by his actions openly or covertly shows sympathetic fraternal to our form of government."

No one can mistake where the Letter Carriers stand on the Communist issue after reading that resolution. And in order to make certain that the position of the American Federation of Labor is clearly understood, our convention instructed me to establish a similar resolution to the convention of the AFL, which meets October 7 in Chicago. I am confident that the American Federation of Labor will adopt the resolution unanimously.

Such action will prove a body blow to one of the curious reliances certain unions not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to utter a single word in condemnation of Communism. I have used the word which held a connection. It is the word "curious." Its officers in their official report lavished praise on Soviet Russia and condemned the leaders of our Government who shape the foreign policy of the United States. This convention overwhelmingly defeated a mild resolution denouncing Communism and Fascism with equal force. And the officers, who were charitably described in the newspapers as "left-wing," were re-elected by a large majority.

This is a shocking demonstration of the extent to which Communists have succeeded in securing a grip on one branch of the labor movement in our country. Unless this trend is halted, its tracks, turmoil and internal strife will plague our country at a time when stability and unity are essential for the future peace and prosperity of our own nation and the entire world.

Truman Backs AFL Federal Workers In Opposing Indiscriminate Firing

St. Paul, Minn.—Increased pay for employes of the Federal Government is one of the major goals of the legislative program drafted for the next Congress, James B. Burns, president of the American Federation of Government Employes (AFL), told the opening session of that organization's annual convention here.

At the same time the delegates were cheered by a message from President Truman expressing his opposition to indiscriminate dismissals of Federal workers in the current program to reduce the payroll.

Conceding that reductions in Federal personnel "are an absolute necessity," Mr. Truman declared, "I feel, at the same time we must make sure that we distribute those reductions in such a way that none of the essential services are crippled."

Mr. Truman made no specific mention of the Federal Pay Act of 1946, which requires Federal employment be reduced to 1,600,000, the President added that "we must see to it that we do not have any surplus personnel."

In conclusion, his message said:

"Your convention is being held at a very important time. Never before in the peacetime history of this Nation have Government employes been called on to discharge so difficult and complex duties and responsibilities. Failure to discharge them effectively would seriously undermine public confidence in our form of government. We must therefore work together to strengthen our career public service."

Mr. Burns read the President's message, Mr. Burns told the convention:

"That's exactly the same position we have taken for months. We know that sharp personnel cuts must be made, but we don't intend to play hit or miss with our personnel. But we are determined that the arbitrary personnel ceiling system works hardships on many agencies that can't operate efficiently with less personnel. If we are to have efficient government, we can't slash our payrolls indiscriminately."

The legislative program placed before the delegates by Mr. Burns is aimed at the following objectives:

1. An increase of pay commensurate with the cost of living rise since 1941, including a boost for those now retired.

2. Extension of the Classification Act's benefits to all white-collar clerical workers, including those in the field service.

3. Prevention of so-called "downgrading" in order to cut salaries.

4. Establishment of seniority as a stronger factor in determining who shall be separated from the service and in determining promotions.

5. Protection of the retirement system, with optional retirement at full annuity after 30 years' service.

6. Six months' half-pay for those dismissed from their service with five or more years' service, and commensurate compensation for those with less tenure.

There did not set a figure for the pay raise to be sought before Congress this winter, but pointed out living costs from 1941 through last month had risen 45 percent.

"All this means but one thing," he said, "that Government employes are again piling up an accumulated deficit which is represented by the gap between the purchasing value of their salaries and the nominal values of the dollars they receive. Your national office will again be ready to wage another unrelenting campaign for salary legislation when Congress again convenes."

Altmeyer Offers New Security Plan Based on 8% Worker-Employer Tax

New York City.—A comprehensive, self-financing Federal social security plan covering all economic hazards of workers was urged by Social Security Administrator Commissioner Arthur J. Altmeyer in an address before the Controllers Institute of America at a meeting here.

He expressed confidence that, despite substantial benefits provided, such a single system would be more than covered by a combined payroll tax contribution of eight per cent—four of a percent each.

Commissioner Mr. Altmeyer declared that the simplest way to achieve the simple social insurance principle of "use as you contribute" he pointed out, already have been established for 74,000,000 individuals, with each account being maintained on an average cost of 12 cents per account per year.

"There is no reason," Mr. Altmeyer said, "why these individual records cannot be used for the determination of benefit rights in the case of unemployment insurance, as well as temporary and permanent disability and medical care. Employers would have to make only the four quarterly reports they already submit under Federal old-age and survivors' insurance system.

"It would be in sharp contrast with the 209 reports an employer is required to make under the old-age and survivors' insurance system and the 51 different unemployment insurance laws if all were in operating in all of these jurisdictions."

Labor to Lead Campaign To Insure Peace,—Ban War

Rockford, Ill.—Labor will spare no effort to safeguard peace and will take the lead in a movement to outlaw the atomic bomb and "the whole dirty business of war," Leroy G. Soderstrom, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, told the delegates to the State federation's 64th convention here.

Soderstrom's plea for peace and his statement that "labor is better off without wars" brought cheers from the nearly 1,200 delegates representing 750,000 Illinois American Federation of Labor members.

Soderstrom said it appeared as easy to establish peaceful national habits "as it is to establish those that are warlike." He added:

"In the future the family of nations ought to spend as much time and as much money developing habits of friendliness between countries as the individual nations now do to maintain military departments, military equipment, and governmental occupational protectorates."

Discussing the workers' share in production and profits, Soderstrom criticized "those who say we of labor encourage men and women not to produce a full day's work.

"The trouble with this charge is—it is not true," Soderstrom said. "We say to the employer, bring on your improved machinery. Bring on what we will use them, but . . . demand our full share of the revenue which will come from the increased production through our toil."

Wyatt Predicts Early End To Rising Housing Costs

Washington, D. C.—Relief that the inflationary spiral in housing costs will be halted in October was expressed by Housing Expediter Wilson W. Wyatt, who coupled his statement with an appeal to landlords to drop the practice of "chiseling" which has been preventing many veterans' families from getting quarters in all parts of the nation.

The housing chief discounted reports recently circulated by economic economists that the housing industry is about to price itself out of a market.

Costs of new homes for veterans—which he conceded are too high—must be compared with prewar housing prices, he said.

"With a $275,000,000,000 national debt, we can't talk about normal prices," he said. "We can't pay off such a debt and at the same time see prices return to prewar."

All costs are up, he said. The whole economy is now geared to prices higher than those of 1941.

"Some landlords are refusing to rent to veterans with children," Wyatt said, "even though these veterans' families are facing severe hardships. We receive many complaints daily about this practice. I appeal to those certain landlords of refusing to rent to veterans and apartments of veterans whose families include young children. They rent only to single persons or to couples—to save wear and tear on their properties, they claim.

"This is unfair in every sense. It is unfair to the veteran who left his family and home and risked every day comforts of life to protect our country in time of war. It is unfair to the veteran's wife who, during those years, so gallantly carried on at home.

"But, above all else, it is unfair to the child. He is condemned to crowded, unsanitary, insanitary dwellings; he is exposed to conditions that so often lead to juvenile delinquency and crime; disease and mental instability; at the very least, he is deprived of the advantages of an adequate home in decent surroundings.

"Whenever tragedy has struck, at home or abroad, America has always been prompt to help relieve suffering and hardship. Let us not be blind to the tragedy which is many of our veterans' families face in America today. Let's put this disgraceful ban on children at once."

SOAP TO REMAIN SCARCE

Washington, D. C.—Laundry soap and soap flakes, already very short in supply, will be even more scarce during the winter, Government officials predicted.

Green Assures Negroes of Aid In Struggle For Better Living

States, Cities, Counties Map Huge Construction Program

Washington, D. C.—A vast program of public works, estimated at $4,107,156,000, is being mapped by States, cities and counties throughout the Nation, to be financed by their own funds.

Federal-aid highways, rivers and harbors, flood control projects, Federal post offices and buildings and veterans' hospitals, financed in whole or in part by the Federal Government, are expected to call for billions in the works program.

The Federal Works Agency has requests from States, cities and counties for advances to plan 7,560 projects totaling $2,787,136,500, and as of June 30 these local governmental units had completed their own plans for 5,500 projects to cost $1,350,000,000, according to FWA records.

Of the requests, FWA reported it has approved 4,830 and advanced $32,258,354 for planning. These alone involve $21,000,000,000.

Under Congressional act, FWA has $65,000,000 to assist States, cities and counties in planning non-Federal public works.

Advances are repayable without interest upon the beginning of construction. Otherwise, they are free, but George H. Field, commissioner of FWA's Bureau of Community Facilities, said applicants "must show capacity to build with their own funds within four years" before they get an advance.

Preference is given to local agencies that have voted bonds to finance projects.

The bulk of advances approved to August 31 was for planning water mains, paved street and sewer extensions and improvements and for new school buildings and additions.

Applications have been approved for planning 1,400 sewer, water and sanitation projects to cost $546,355,941 and for 1,317 school expansions or new buildings to cost $318,415,189.

Other items approved for advances include: 300 highway, road and street projects, to cost $46,820,998; 41 bridges, viaducts and railway overpasses, $28,492,486; 35 airports, $19,895,981; 158 hospitals and clinics, $73,470,874; 392 public buildings, such as courthouses and city halls, $117,187,172; 178 parks and other recreational facilities, $26,943,120; 72 miscellaneous projects, $116,481,309.

Labor Aid to Foreign Relief Placed at Close to 12 Million

New York City.—American labor has contributed between 10 and 12 million dollars to foreign relief since 1940, Reginald T. Kennedy, director of foreign relief for the Labor League for Human Rights, relief arm of the American Federation of Labor, reported at a meeting of the relief organization here.

The current appropriation, he said, is $2,000,000.

Through the foreign relief program, about 6,000 children are being fed daily, he added, with medical care and attention offered in addition. In Germany and Austria, $1,225,000 was spent entirely for children's garments and 500,000 new garments were sent in 1944 and 1945.

The AFL through its labor league has obtained, and held aid of other voluntary agencies, "an agreement for the shipping of needed supplementary relief to Russia. This is a new type of many except the Russian," Mr. Kennedy declared. Through a worker's league, laws have been passed by Hitler in 1963, but since reestablished in the American zone, the league has distributed medicine and children's food, he reported.

Of the league's representative in Germany, Irving Brown would return to New York on Monday to report on the needs of Jewish persons, a group the league has defended in cooperation with other voluntary aid agencies.

Addressing the group, Harold I. Seymour, executive director of the National War Fund, declared that organized labor "has a major responsibility to see this charity as part of the main theme, and not a sideshow of the labor movement," in dealing with foreign relief problems.

Paying high tribute to the contribution American labor has made to relieving suffering in Europe by assuming its proper place in the field of organized philanthropy, Seymour urged against any slackening in the effort at this time.

"We have to make this a land of united people," he said, "labor must remain a part of organized welfare with its own basic objectives and agreement upon a common purpose, labor and business cannot separate themselves from responsibility for human health, education and general well being. This is a part of regular union business today, as important as wages and hours."

A paper prepared by Robert Loseley, Community Chest Director for Rhode Island, declared the community chest idea would "fail" if cooperation with labor should lag.

"I can see no real prospect of such a failure," he said, "since they cannot continue to exist as a vital force unless they marshal all men of good will, regardless of their religious beliefs or their political status, in the name of a common humanity."

Meat Cutters Join Black Market War In New York City

New York City.—AFL butchers here, members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, put a firm brake on the illegal meat trade today when the union leaders directed the members to refuse to sell meat at above ceiling prices, even though directed to do so by their employers.

As forecasts that meat supplies will go "from bad to worse" next week came from every section of the industry, poultry prices took a marked turn upward. That the housewife's first choice for Sunday dinner was still a plentiful meal was proved by long lines at the few retail shops with meat for sale.

The drive also to thwart illegal dealings, the butchers' union joined forces with four employers' groups and agreed to close 5,000 butcher shops on Monday morning as a protest against the dearth of supplies at ceiling prices.

The 1,500 workers who would be made idle by the shutdown will participate in the strike, said Joseph Belsky, International vice president of the union. Many shops, he explained, are run by their owners. Union members, who will register daily at union headquarters before seeking out the control, will be paid full wages by their employers.

41 NEW YORK NIGHT CLUBS GRANT MUSICIANS RAISE

New York City.—Forty-one night clubs here awarded an orchestra lieup by granting musicians a 20 percent general wage increase, in line with a request by Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians. The settlement does not yet apply to hotel bands.

Under the new contract bandmen will also get time and a half for overtime and $5 extra on New Year's Eve, also minimum working scale which means reducing to a minimum the intervals in the night's work when the musicians are not playing.

Hod Carriers Hear Plea for Election Of Labor's Friends

Chicago.—An urgent appeal for election of friends of labor to seats in Congress and State Legislatures was sounded by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Hillenbrand in an address to the opening session of the International Convention of the Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' Union here.

Citing the recent appeal of AFL President William Green to labor to invade the political field to insure the election of a better Congress, Msgr. Hillenbrand told the delegates:

"You have heard the call of your president to send to Congress and to State Legislatures the men who will really represent what labor needs. I urge all of you men, back in your respective States, will see that those laws are passed which we need. In order that we need a Labor Relations Act, an issue which has always stymied the Legislature. We did not get out of Congress the Wage and Hour Act we needed."

Gov. Dwight H. Green of Illinois, extolling the cooperation of labor and management during the world, predicted continued prosperity if that principle can be followed in peace time.

CONNECTICUT FEDERATION BACKS U. S. CONCILIATION

Bridgeport, Conn. — Consenting upon a wide-spread request that the Connecticut Federation of Labor had condemned government agencies for interfering in industrial disputes, Joseph M. Rourke, secretary-treasurer of the State Federation, declared a resolution passed by the recent convention at Hartford was misunderstood.

While the convention favored the setting up of local mediation groups consisting of business and labor leaders, he said, it was made clear that the resolution was not intended to repeal present legislation like the U. S. Conciliation Service or the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration, which had been found to be useful agencies.

Warns R.R. Car Porters To Discount Appeals By Agents of Reds

Chicago.—Deploring the economic plight of the American Negro worker, and the Red drive to capitalize on it, AFL President William Green, addressing the fifth biennial convention of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, pledged the full might of the American Federation of Labor to securing decent wages, abolition of the poll tax and protection against Communist infiltration.

Mr. Green told the delegates that latest reports from the AFL campaign to enroll one million unorganized Southern workers has shown a registration of 150,000 new members, and he reminded the union that one million Negroes already are members of AFL affiliates.

Recalling the famed words of the late President Roosevelt that he called attention of the entire American people to the fact that one-third of the Nation was ill-fed, ill-housed and ill-clothed, Mr. Green told the convention:

"Today millions of Americans are still economically oppressed. Today two-thirds of the Negroes in America and many millions of other workers are still forced to exist under conditions below a minimum subsistence standard. They live in slums or in dilapidated shacks lacking the most elementary requirements of a decent, healthful home. They and their children are unable to buy food essential to proper nourishment.

"They cannot afford adequate medical care. The children are forced to go out and seek employment at such an early age that they are denied opportunities for education and advancement. They are clothed in rags and tatters.

"These are the conditions which the American Federation of Labor is determined to change.

"Our determination is based not a vague economic philosophy. It is only on humanitarian motives but on sure firm belief that this country cannot long remain prosperous unless all its people are prosperous. In a nation of a few years, our factories and farms again will be producing more than they can sell. These, we know, would be periods of real surpluses. If every family in America could buy what it needs, the surpluses would soon melt and disappear. We would not have to seek out foreign markets and subsidize foreign purchases with loans which may never be repaid.

"America has enough customers right here at home to buy nearly all it can produce, if the people could earn enough to purchase what they need.

"The American Federation of Labor proposes to expand the purchasing power of the masses in America by organizing the unorganized workers. I need not explain to you the benefits of union organization. Your own experience in the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is the best demonstration of the way union organization raises the earning power and the purchasing power of workers.

"Today, even the unorganized workers in the country are beginning to understand the real truth."

Mr. Green sounded grave warning that un-American influences, guided by the hand of the Soviet, have been directing their attention first to Negro workers, in the belief that they would be the more approachable. He said:

"The American Federation of Labor never has, does not now and never will discriminate against Negroes. On the contrary, I am confident that the record will show that we have done more to improve the lot of Negroes in America than any other organization in this country.

"We and our associates are out to foment revolution in America and they regard the Negroes as candidates for front line positions in their hoped-for revolution. They are willing to promise the Negroes the moon in order to create discontent with their present status and to enlist them in their revolutionary aims.

"Make no mistake about it! The Communists did not want to see the Anti-Poll Tax Bill and the Fair Employment Practices Bill adopted. By placing themselves in the forefront of the sponsors of these measures, they knew they were helping to defeat them. By thus insuring the defeat of this legislation, they hoped to stir up more discontent and fan the flames of their revolutionary objectives.

"The enemies of the Negroes too. They are the enemies of everything that is decent and democratic and forward-looking in our national life.

"The American Federation of Labor is determined to fight these enemies with all the power that it possesses."

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the law, the trial, legislative, and judicial bodies, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

REGISTER! VOTE! ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

AFL Calls On Labor to Lead Battle To Insure Election of Better Congress

Washington, D. C.—An urgent appeal to "organize effectively" to insure election to Congress and State Legislatures of persons friendly to labor was expressed by AFL President William Green in letters to all State Federations and Central Labor Unions.

The voting records of members of the Senate and House on vital labor issues are being compiled by the AFL and are being forwarded to unions throughout the Nation as a guide to the November balloting of their members.

Stressing the importance of registering to qualify for voting and the imperative need of placing in Congress and legislative persons who understand and are sympathetic to the cause of labor, Mr. Green said:

"The election of members to the United States Senate and the House of Representatives this year is of tremendous importance to the membership of the American Federation of Labor. Members of the House of Representatives and the United States Senate so voted in favor of highly objectionable antilabor legislation while serving as members of the 79th session, of Congress ought to be defeated.

"Those who voted against this antilabor legislation and supported labor in its position on said legislation ought to be reelected regardless of their party affiliation. This is in conformity with the nonpartisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor.

"In order that the membership of the American Federation of Labor and all their friends in each congressional district and in each State may be acquainted with the record made by the Congressmen who represent them in Congress on labor legislation, I am enclosing a copy of the record referred to. This is the official record of your Congressman and U. S. Senator who are candidates for reelection. I respectfully request you examine this record carefully. Give it as wide publicity as possible in the congressional district in which you are located. Furthermore, I urge you supplement this action by the selection of a nonpartisan political committee for the purpose of bringing about the defeat of those candidates for reelection to Congress who have record shows were your enemies, who voted against you and in favor of antilabor legislation.

"We must depend upon the men and women of labor to elect and reelect members to the House and Senate who will stand by labor and in opposition to reactionary antilabor legislation regardless of party affiliation. If members of Congress who voted against you and were your enemies are elected or reelected to Congress, such action would be interpreted as an approval of their votes against you.

"I urge you to organize effectively for the election of labor's friends to Congress and the defeat of its enemies. You can do this because the vast army of working men and women are sufficiently large to defeat our enemies and elect our friends.

"We urge your committees for offensive and defensive nonpartisan political action Democratic to the national nonpartisan political strength of the working men and women of our country. Elect our friends and defeat our enemies in the Congress of the United States."

Knight, Carmen's Chief, to Retire After Sealing Big Gains for Union

Chicago.—Felix H. Knight, president of the International Brotherhood of Railway Carmen (AFL) and one of American labor's leading champions over a long period of years, announced to the national convention of his union here that he plans to retire in December.

The announcement came in the last page of a 62-page report detailing the great growth of the organization since its last convention in 1941. Since then, the report showed, the membership jumped by 41,000 and 111 new lodges were added.

Commenting on his plan to retire in December, Mr. Knight told delegates to the convention that he has served the union, in one capacity or another, for 34 years—for 18 years with his Violet Lodge in St. Louis, for 22 years as assistant president and for the last 11 years as president.

He explained that, "due to that long service," he is "glad to comply with the spirit and intent of a resolution adopted at the 1939 convention. That resolution calls for retirement of Grand Lodge officers at 68, with the exception of the president, who is to step down at 70.

Though Mr. Knight is only 67 and still hale and hearty, he felt the "time has come" he prefers to give up the reins at this time. He added that he is "appreciative, however, of expression of the friendship and cooperation of all."

"I have given in a full measure, consistent with my qualifications, capabilities and experience, to this organization," he declared, "and I feel that effort has been appreciated, due to the fact that I have been unopposed in conventions since 1919.

"Officially and fraternally, I shall not say good-bye, but au revoir—as I expect and have anticipated of meeting many of you again in the years to come."

At the outset of his report, President Knight cited the fact that the five years since the last convention have included one of the most terrible wars in our history and with it the unprecedented problems we confronted with many difficult problems."

"Not only have we met them successfully, but I am glad to say that in meeting its responsibilities to its membership and to the nation your brotherhood has grown in size and prestige," he said.

"It would be no exaggeration to state that we have increased wages more and secured greater improvements in the working conditions of our membership than any other like period in our history." Knight reviewed some of these gains as follows:

Across-the-board wage increases aggregating 37½ to 39½ cents an hour, together with pay of one to two weeks; organization of 47 additional system federations, making a total of 2,998 in the United States and Canada, and extensive improvement of existing agreements, including the leveling up of substandard rates.

"Perhaps the most important development regarding our working rules is the fact that overtime for all Sunday and holiday work has been reestablished on nearly all carriers where we have agreements," he added.

YOUR TAXES AND MINE

This is the eleventh of a series of 12 articles on tax problems affecting every person in the Nation, written for the AFL Weekly News Service by Arthur D. Sider, tax consultant of the AFL's Tax Committee and a vice president of the American Federation of Labor.

How Big a Tax Cut?

How big a cut can the average worker expect in his income tax in 1947? The ranking Republican member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Representative Knutson, proposes a 20 per cent reduction to all income tax payers, if the GOP wins control of the next Congress.

Representative Knutson proposes a flat reduction for all levels of income. This is a reactionary proposal, which gives tax relief to the upper income brackets out of all proportion to that which is proposed for the lower income tax.

Cuts in income taxes should be made on the basis of increasing purchasing power, particularly in the periods when there is danger that consumption will drop and throw the economy into a tailspin. This would require greater reductions for low income groups.

The sort of cut that Knutson proposes can lead to serious consequences. Economists are agreed that reduction of income tax rates in the upper brackets in the 1920's contributed to the disastrous depression of the 1930's. Those cuts led to the accumulation of idle savings and wild speculation in the stock market.

Even if tax cuts were desirable now, they are not possible, according to the WALL STREET JOURNAL (Tax Report, August 14, 1946), which says that Knutson's proposals are "over-optimistic." Certainly the JOURNAL cannot be charged with prejudice against Republican Congressional candidates.

The fact that wage earners can expect, according to sober economists, is an increase in exemptions and a 5 to 10 percent cut in the extra rate on individual incomes. This would not be a substantial reduction. At a time when reduced income will make it desirable, if and when any changes in taxation take place, reductions in taxes on low incomes should be given first consideration.

Three conclusions are inescapable:

1. Proposals and promises to reduce federal taxes are just campaign talk, decidedly premature, and should be ignored by the public and newspapers.

2. If the tax reduction proposals of Representative Knutson were put into effect the prospects of depression would be greatly increased.

3. Increased exemptions so as to insure reasonable standard of living and steeply increasing pur-hasing power in low income groups should be given first priority in any tax changes proposed.

Industrial Jobs Increase To 39,828,000 In August

Washington, D. C.—Employment in August in nonagricultural establishments rose to 39,828,000, or more than 1,500,000 above the level of V-J Day, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

In the elapsed month between July and August the figure rose 600,000. Unemployment, according to the Bureau of the Census, declined 150,000 in the month period to just above 2,000,000.

In the reconversion period from August, last year, to last month manufacturing and government employment declined by 2,000,000 workers each, but the construction industries gained more than 1,000,000, trades about 900,000, and all other categories more than 500,000.

In manufacturing, the BLS reported a shift from durable to nondurable goods since the end of the war. The decrease in the durable goods industries, about 1,000,000, was principally in shipbuilding and aircraft.

Manufacturing industries accounted for three-fifths of the 500,000 over-all gain in the July-August period this year. Construction was next with an increase of 118,000. This last raised employment in the construction industries to more than 2,000,000 for the first time since November, 1945.

The number of workers in manufacturing increased by 314,000 between July and August, and the gain was equally divided between the durable and nondurable goods groups. Gains of 5 percent in the food and apparel industries were the most striking by category.

President Orders Complete Review Of Government Wage-Price Policy

Washington, D. C.—Fate of the Wage Stabilization Board hung in the balance as President Truman ordered a sweeping review of the Government's entire wage and price policies.

The action followed a vigorous attack on the WSB policies by AFL President William Green, who demanded that the public and industry representatives on the board resign. Mr. Truman, in effect, sanctioned the wage-rate agreement reached privately between AFL Seamen and Seafarers and ship operators—a contract which the board rejected as inflationary.

Announcement was made by the Office of War Mobilization that the President asked its advisory board to examine the whole stabilization policy. The first meeting of the group to which this study was assigned was set for the week of September 22.

One advisory board member expressed the view that the President intended only to determine whether or not to abolish the board, and if so, what machinery might be employed to carry on the functions.

Despite the insistence of OWMR officials that the order for the review and WSB policies was very informal and in line with the board's continuing review of reconversion policy, it was conceded generally in government circles that the WSB's future would inevitably come into question.

There was no doubt, officials said, that the board's prestige was seriously damaged by the decision of Stabilization Director John R. Steelman, approved by the President, to direct the Maritime Commission to pay the increased pay rates granted to the AFL seamen by private ship operators.

Some members of the advisory group have indicated a definite stand that the WSB should be abolished and replaced by an agency "more alive" to the problems of labor and the gap between wages and the steadily rising cost of living. Such a move, they believe, would do much to iron out labor difficulties and promote an improved employer-worker understanding.

The general consensus in Government circles was that any new policy evolved must take into account the sharp price increases of recent weeks, and it was regarded likely that the wage floor will be increased by at least 11 percent. Price increases in a wide assortment of items have been announced daily by the OPA, operating under the new general law and each of these, in its own way, has increased the cost of these products to consumers.

War Dept. Honors Keenan For Services With WPB

Washington, D. C. — Joseph D. Keenan, head of the Chicago Federation of Labor, has been honored for special services to the Government during the war and postwar periods, was presented with the Legion of Merit by Secretary of War Patterson for his assistance as a member of the War Production Board.

At a luncheon attended by Richard B. Patterson, administrative assistant to President Truman, and by high-ranking military and civilian government officials, Mr. Keenan received the citation, which said:

"To Joseph D. Keenan, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the United States.

"Mr. Keenan, as labor relations counsellor and as vice chairman for labor production in the War Production Board, gave unstintingly of his efforts to procure the necessary labor requirements for the war effort.

"His ability to compromise differences and to forge the demands of labor enabled him to aid in the continuity of war production without the usual setbacks that attended a nation totally geared to war work.

"By virtue of his consummate perseverance, he overcame obstacles that might have hampered the war effort, and he displayed a capacity for knowledge of all difficult labor situations, and astutely advised the Board with regard to the requirements of the issues, in order to prevent interruptions in work.

"He brought with him the experience and vast knowledge in these fields, which were used to their full capacity, and through his important work he became a great asset in the continuation of full-time employment in relation to war production."

AFL JOINS WITH OTHERS IN PROTEST TO TRUMAN TO HALT MOB VIOLENCE

Washington, D. C.—Stern protest against mob violence in the United States was placed before President Truman by a delegation of the recently formed National Emergency Committee Against Mob Violence. The AFL was represented by one of its top economic advisers, Boris Shishkin.

The group asked the President to take the following steps:

"1. To insist that the law enforcement agencies of the Federal Government, free of political influence, redouble its efforts against and prosecution of lynchers without delay or appeasement of any political motive or other defenders of mob violence.

"2. That you rouse the American people by radio, press and other media to oppose actively every form of mob violence.

"3. That you call upon the Congress to reconvene to enact such legislation as is necessary to enable the Federal Government, in cooperation with the states, to stop lynching and to punish lynchers.

"We are convinced that only prompt and unequivocal action by the Federal Government can possibly prevent a Bradford Junior College riot of the sort which is victimizing not only members of minority groups but is threatening to engulf all America."

FOOD PRICES CLIMB

New York City.—The steady climb in food prices continues. The weekly food index compiled by Dun & Bradstreet showed a rise of four cents to $6.09 for the week ended September 17 in comparison with $5.95 a week before and with $4.04 in the corresponding week of last year.

TEAMSTERS GET INCREASE

Oakland, Calif.—The Truck Owners' Association agreed to a negotiated 18½-cent hourly wage increase retroactive to May 1 after a long meeting here. The agreement, signed by the AFL Teamsters, ended a five-day stoppage and released trucks hauling produce to canneries.

CANNING HEADED FOR RECORD

Washington, D. C.—The Agriculture Department has reported that this year's pack of canned fruit will reach an all-time high, with cheaper prices in prospect. The department predicts significant increases for canned apples, apricots, sour cherries, peaches and citrus fruits, and in imported canned fruits, especially pineapple from Hawaii.

SLEEPING CAR PORTERS CONDEMN RED ACTIVITY

Chicago.—A strong stand condemning the Communist Party was taken by the delegates in the biennial convention of Sleeping Car Porters (AFL) in session here.

The action came after AFL President William Green warned the porters that Red agents were out to exploit Negro workers in the belief that they were uneducated and could be led astray.

The Communist Party's program and practices, the porters' resolution declared, were in conflict with the interests of this country and were a threat to the trade union movement and to the cause of the Negro. The convention also went on record against alliance with the World Federation of Trade Unions because of its acceptance of the Communist Trade Union International.

Green Hits Soviet's Slave Labor In Attack On Communist Unions

AFGE Rallies to Green's Call To Rid Ranks of Communists

St. Paul, Minn.—James B. Burns was reelected president of the American Federation of Government Employees at a convention here, which heard AFL President William Green predict that "more and more CIO unions" will seek affiliation with the AFL in the present trend to renounce Red domination, obtain better leadership and improved working conditions and wages.

Mrs. Bernice H. Heffner was elected to the newly created post of secretary-treasurer.

Rallying to an urgent appeal by Mr. Green that Government workers purge their ranks of Reds and other subversive influence, the convention went on record as for prompt dismissal of any workers guilty of disloyalty to the Nation.

Mr. Green declared the AFL is firmly opposed to any collaboration with any CIO union "any place, anywhere, for any reason." Orders to this effect, he said have been issued to all AFL affiliates.

Mr. Green was particularly bitter over what he said was the CIO's contribution "one of our soft-hearted unions" made to the CIO United Automobile Workers during the automobile strike in order to help out the families of the striking CIO workers.

"And what happened," Mr. Green went on, "while the check was in the mail, a group of the automobile workers was on their way to Pennsylvania to stage a drive to break up one of the most splendid unions in Pennsylvania."

Mr. Green told the delegates the present AFL membership was 7,100,000 and predicted that before long it would reach a total of 10,000,000.

Earlier, Harry B. Mitchell, president of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, lashed out at "publicly-made statements" on a Government payroll reduction of 200,000 persons.

Mitchell told the delegates "anyone who has knowledge of Government affairs knows that it cannot be done.

"And it will not be done," he declared.

Civil Service Commissioner Arthur S. Flemming told the delegates that Government employees should be given priority over temporary wartime workers.

"No career Civil Service employee should be displaced if there is a vacancy in the Federal service he or she is qualified to fill," he said.

Truman Ready to Launch Inquiry Of Communists in the Government

Washington, D. C.—President Truman has a "live" interest in the purging of Communists and other subversive groups from the Federal payroll, Rep. Randolph, W. Va., told newsmen after a White House conference. He said he believes the President will name a special commission to investigate such elements in Government machinery.

Randolph, chairman of the House Civil Service committee, suggested such an inquiry to Mr. Truman July 25, when a House subcommittee, after a brief inquiry into the service hiring practices, recommended the appointment of a commission that would conduct a thorough investigation and report to Congress next January its findings and recommendations for such needed legislation to protect the Government against infiltration of Communists and other subversive persons.

In his letter to the President last July, Randolph suggested that members of the proposed commission be named from the Departments of War, Navy, State, Treasury, Justice, and Civil Service. He said that he did not know whether Mr. Truman will follow this recommendation but assured the President of his committee's cooperation in the event he does.

Randolph told a reporter that it is the desire of his committee to see that the Government is protected "against individuals whose primary loyalty is to governments other than that of the United States."

"There is no doubt that there has been infiltration into government service by Communists and followers of ideologies and isms imported from other countries," Randolph said. "I am not interested in 'witch hunts' or in Red-baiting *but only in seeing that the Government is protected against disloyal persons.*"

Randolph said that because he considers the issue vital to the stability of the Government, he had vigorously urged Mr. Truman to name the commission immediately so it will be able to report early next year.

Rep. Starnes, ranking minority member on the House Civil Service Committee, has demanded that the Civil Service Commission start a sweeping investigation of all Federal employes whose loyalty is in doubt, including those who have convinced the Civil Service Commission that they are not subversives.

Textile Unions Chalk Up Marked Progress In South

Talladega, Ala.—Marking one of the most overwhelming victories it has scored in its intensified drive to organize southern textile plants, the United Textile Workers of America won an NLRB election at the Bemis Bag Co. here when 669 workers voted to join the AFL union and only 68 voted for no union.

The organizing campaign was directed by Anthony Valenta, AFL-UTW president. Of the 826 workers eligible to ballot, 744 voted and only 7 votes were challenged.

Mr. Valente was assisted by R. R. Wade, president of the Alabama State Federation, Walter B. Mitchell, CIO-Mitchell and Fred Vann, organizers, and by th ocal business agent, S. V. Higginbottom.

The victory of the AFL here climaxed similar triumphs at the Clara, Dunn and Armstrong mills in Gastonia, which were marked by a margin of 134 to 33 for the AFL.

In Morganston, N. C. workers in three hosiery mills voted 503 to 150 to name the AFL union as their collective bargaining agent.

Leaders of the AFL drive throughout the South to add 1,000,000 new members within the next year hailed these successes as a definite indication of the trend of southern workers to rally to the AFL banner to assure themselves of better living, more food, higher wages and improved working conditions.

LONGSHOREMEN IGNORE CIO LINE OF PICKETS

New York City.—Attempts of the CIO to cash in on the benefits granted to the AFL Seamen by the Waterfront Pacific and the Seafarers' Union and later sanctioned by President Truman suffered a sharp setback here, when Joseph P. Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, members of his union through picket lines thrown around the docks by the CIO.

When the S. S. Thos. Washington docked here and only a watch crew of 10 out of a total of 475 workers was left aboard, Ryan ordered his men through the CIO picket line to the dock and told them to "get in there and get a day's work."

He had taken the position that, unlike the CIO, which was ignoring its contract by calling a strike, the AFL was in no sense work only to live up to its agreements. Ryan declared that when a government agency's refusal to approve an agreement negotiated peacefully between the workers and the ship owners.

Confronted with the determination of AFL workers to live up to the terms of their contract, the CIO announced it would no longer picket ships manned by the AFL Seafarers, except where they are berthed in the same docks with CIO-manned vessels.

Snyder Disputes Hoarding Report

Washington, D. C.—A Commerce Department report declaring that there is "an exceptional amount of inventory hoarding" by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers was sternly challenged by Treasury Secretary Snyder.

Commenting on the Commerce report that total inventories in merchants at the end of July stood at a record high of 30 billion dollars—a billion and a half above the previous high of November, 1945—Mr. Snyder said he had consulted the Civil Production Administration and that he found no exceptional hoarding of inventories.

He said total inventories at retail stores appeared adequate to meet the demand for goods, but that the real shortage was in the major factors in hoarding of supplies.

LABOR RIFTS CALLED GOOD

New Orleans.—The Nation's youth and its handling problems are paramount issue for the future, Samuel Cardinal Stritch of Chicago told on his arrival here for an address. From "the labor turmoil, as well as, much good will seemed the matter is "now on the President's desk."

Randolph told a reporter that it is the desire of his committee to see that the Government is protected "against individuals whose primary loyalty is to governments other than that of the United States."

"There is no doubt that there has been infiltration into government service by Communists and followers of ideologies and isms imported from other countries," Randolph said. "I am not interested in 'witch hunts' or in Red-baiting *but only in seeing that the Government is protected against disloyal persons.*"

Randolph said that because he considers the issue vital to the stability of the Government, he had vigorously urged Mr. Truman to name the commission immediately so it will be able to report early next year.

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Cites U. S. Document Based on Statements Of Leaders in Russia

Rockford, Ill.—Lifting the "iron curtain" Soviet Russia has thrown over its labor and other activities, AFL President William Green bared to American labor a formal United States report proving that Russian workers constitute a giant "slave army," that trade unions are "government institutions" and that the Red workers throughout the Soviet are disciplined to their government's "needs and goals."

Addressing the Illinois State Federation of Labor convention, Mr. Green sharply condemned the CIO for refusal of its unions to take a stand against Red infiltration and appealed for a united front by American workers to maintain and reinforce democracy.

Branding the CIO in general "a Communist-dominated organization," Green added:

"We can no more reconcile the Americanism of the AFL with the communism of the CIO than you can reconcile the Knights of Columbus with the Ku Klux Klan."

Citing a strictly factual document compiled recently by the Library of Congress on conditions within Russia, based upon "what the leaders of Russia and official Soviet publications have themselves revealed," Mr. Green said:

"This report devotes an entire chapter to labor. The report says:

"'Trade unions in Soviet Russia have been absorbed by its general government economic machinery. Soviet trade union officials are party 'activists' are government officials, carrying out government policies, and Soviet trade unions are government institutions, disciplining the workers in the government's needs and goals and performing functions which in other countries are performed either by management or by government.

"'The relation of the union to the employing enterprise took on the aspects of "comprehensive union" which used to flourish in the United States."

"'Soviet unions are not organized to conduct strikes. While there does not appear to be any specific legislation prohibiting strikes, strikes rarely occur in State industries. One writer puts it cryptically that "strikes according to the unwritten law of established Soviet law, are forbidden."'"

Declaring that the report "makes the Soviet pretty clear," Mr. Green told the delegates that "if the Communists think they can ever sell the idea in this country on the basis of what Communism has done for Russian workers, they must consider American workers utter fools."

Mr. Green vigorously assailed the recent convention of the Progressive Radio and Machine Workers for "lavishing praise on Soviet Russia and all the men who brazenly denouncing Secretary of State Byrnes."

Pointing out that a resolution condemning Communism and Fascism was defeated by an overwhelming vote, he added:

"And the officers who refused to condemn Communism and Fascism were reelected, according to newspaper reports, by a margin of 6 to 1."

John P. Frey, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department, launched a strong attack at the administration's rapid extension of government powers over private agencies, over which we have no control and from whose decisions we have no recourse at law.

"Two forms of government can no more go side by side together in our nation than can two foreign policies of that same nation."

Mr. Frey was particularly bitter against the National Labor Relations Board, which he accused of "organizing for the CIO."

Other speakers were Earl J. McMahon, secretary of the Chicago and Cook county AFL building and construction trades council, and Paul Lavington, president of the board of trustees of the University of Illinois.

OVER 23 BILLION RODE U. S. TRANSIT LINES IN '45

New York City.—More than 22 and a quarter billion people rode on the nation's transit lines during 1945, according to the annual summary made by the American Transit Association. This represented a record, exceeding even the peak wartime record achieved in 1944.

The association, which had anticipated a gradual slackening in passenger volume following the war, attributes the new record to the rapid shift which most industries were able to make from war to peacetime production, as well as to reduced passenger automobile registration.